

**CLAIMS:**

1. A method for facilitating the on-line auction of one or more services, the method comprising:

obtaining a service item for auction;

5 managing an on-line auction for the service item, wherein the managing comprises:

receiving on-line bids for the service item;

closing the on-line auction for the service item;

10 indicating one or more winning bids and one or more winning bidders.

2. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising receiving compensation from one or more members of a group selected from an auction bidder, an auction participant, a service seller, a service buyer, a service item placer, and a member of an auction.

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3. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising facilitating real-time provision of the service item for the one or more winning bidder, wherein the real-time provision of the service item occurs proximally near in time to the closing.

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4. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising providing one or more computing systems that perform the obtaining and managing.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the obtaining further comprises receiving information related to the service item via a communications network.

5 6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the managing further comprises receiving real-time bids for the service item via a communications network.

10 7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a service.

15 8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service.

20 9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service selected from a group consisting of:

- advertising;
- advertising in movie houses;
- advertising in broadcast media;
- advertising on the radio;
- advertising on television;
- advertising on an Internet Web site;
- advertising in printed publications;
- Web page design;
- patent application drafting;
- brokerage and financial services;
- shipping;

- graphic design;
- computer programming;
- legal services;
- Internet access service;
- Internet Web page hosting;
- Internet domain name hosting;
- Internet E-mail hosting;
- Internet data storage hosting.

10        10. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service that is intended to be performed for the one or more winning bidders.

15        11. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a service that is intended to be performed by the one or more winning bidders.

20        12. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service that is intended to be performed by the one or more winning bidders.

25        13. An on-line marketplace for auctioning services, the marketplace comprising:

      a services auction-block computing system configured to obtain a service item for auction;

      an auctioneer computing system configured to manage an on-line auction for the service item.

14. A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the auctioneer computing system is further configured to:

- receive on-line bids for the service item;
- close the on-line auction for the service item;

5 indicate one or more winning bids and one or more winning bidders.

15. A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a service.

10 16. A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service.

15 17. A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service selected from a group consisting of:

- advertising;
- advertising in movie houses;
- advertising in broadcast media;
- advertising on the radio;
- advertising on television;
- advertising on an Internet Web site;
- advertising in printed publications;
- Web page design;
- shipping;
- patent application drafting;
- graphic design;
- brokerage and financial services;
- computer programming;

- legal services;
- Internet access service;
- Internet Web page hosting;
- Internet domain name hosting;
- Internet E-mail hosting;
- Internet data storage hosting.

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**18.** A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service that is intended to be performed for the one or more winning bidders.

**19.** A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a service that is intended to be performed by the one or more winning bidders.

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**20.** A marketplace as recited in claim 13, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service that is intended to be performed by the one or more winning bidders.

21. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, performs a method for facilitating the on-line auction of one or more services, the method comprising:

5           obtaining a service item for auction;

          managing an on-line auction for the service item, wherein the managing comprises:

          receiving on-line bids for the service item;

          closing the on-line auction for the service item;

10           indicating one or more winning bids and one or more winning bidders.

22. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the method further comprising facilitating real-time provision of the service item for the one or more winning bidder, wherein the real-time provision of the service item occurs proximally near in time to the closing.

15           23. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the service item is a service.

20           24. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service.

25           25. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service selected from a group consisting of:

- advertising;
- advertising in movie houses;

- advertising in broadcast media;
- advertising on the radio;
- shipping;
- advertising on television;
- 5           • advertising on an Internet Web site;
- advertising in printed publications;
- Web page design;
- patent application drafting;
- graphic design;
- 10           • computer programming;
- legal services;
- brokerage and financial services;
- Internet access service;
- Internet Web page hosting;
- Internet domain name hosting;
- Internet E-mail hosting;
- 15           • Internet data storage hosting.

26. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service that is intended to be performed for the one or more winning bidders.

5 27. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the service item is a service that is intended to be performed by the one or more winning bidders.

10 28. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the service item is a proximity-independent service that is intended to be performed by the one or more winning bidders.